

Work First and Workwise partnership for Wellington!



Two of New Zealand's leading supported employment teams are joining forces to offer services to Wellington people with experience of mental illness. Both teams have been recognised for their work both in New Zealand and internationally.



Work First is a supported employment service currently operating within Capital and Coast District Health Board to provide supported employment services for young people.

Workwise is part of the WISE Group – New Zealand's largest non-government provider of mental health and wellness services – and offers services around New Zealand.

Both teams are at the leading edge of the mental health and employment field in New Zealand and are committed to working with others to support its evolution. From next month Workwise will be working in partnership with Work First to offer evidence-based supported employment services in Wellington.

Using the internationally recognised evidence-based model of Individual Placement and Support (IPS), employment consultants from Workwise and Work First will be attached to community mental health teams within Capital and Coast DHB and to Pathways teams. The integration of employment consultants to mental health teams is essential. This can often be challenging to achieve, but the research overwhelmingly shows that services that faithfully follow the IPS principles get more people into employment. Capital and Coast DHB's clinical services have already indicated strong support for this proven model.

The service will take a 'one team' approach. This will see Work First employment consultants focusing on youth services, two Workwise employment consultants attached to the DHB's adult community mental health teams (in Wellington and Porirua) and another Workwise employment consultant attached to Pathways mobile community support services. The team will be led by Nikki Porteous from Work First and supported by Workwise Central South regional manager Adel Stephenson.

The two year pilot has been made possible thanks to extraordinary support from the wider WISE Group - in recognition of the poverty many people using mental health services face, and the benefits that come from having a job. This year, partly due to the Group's lean thinking in action and efficiencies of working together and sharing business services, the Group is in a position to be able to support the pilot.

For more information about the partnership please contact:

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